

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th March 1880.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	Agrahāyan 1286 B. S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong	600	Phalgun ditto.
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	26th February 1880.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	
7	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	27th February 1880.
8	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	671	24th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	296	
11	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	29th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	27th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca	300	28th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye	200	25th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakarī" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	"Medinī" ... ..	Midnapore	250	
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	27th ditto.
18	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	1st March 1880.
19	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	6th and 20th February 1880.
20	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinia, Rangpore	250	26th ditto.
21	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	29th ditto.
22	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	23rd ditto.
23	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	27th ditto.
24	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	350	
25	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh	260	3rd ditto.
26	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	28th ditto.
27	"Shārad Kaumudī" ... ..	Bhowanipore	300	
28	"Srihatta Prakāsh" ... ..	Sylhet	440	23rd ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
29	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	700	23rd and 27th Feb. to 2nd March 1880.
31	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	1st to 3rd March.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	
34	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	27th February to 2nd ditto.
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	27th February 1880.
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	28th ditto.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	26th ditto.
38	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	26th ditto.
39	"Jagat Mitra" ... ..	Ditto	157	25th ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	27th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

**SAHACHAR,**  
February 23rd, 1880.

**THE *Sahachar***, of the 23rd February, remarks, in the course of a long editorial, that Lord Beaconsfield has committed a great political blunder if he thinks that by

declaring war against Afghanistan, he should be able to check the advance of Russia. We firmly believe, says the Editor, and our belief, we are sure, is shared by almost every statesman opposed to the policy of the present Cabinet, that this object would have been really attained if Afghanistan had been allowed to remain an ally of the British Government, and enabled through its aid to develop her resources. This has, however, now been rendered impossible by the death of Shere Ali and the destruction of Afghan independence by the British Government.

**BHARAT MIHIR,**  
February 24th, 1880.

2. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 24th February, remarks that the time Representative Government in India has now come when the boon of representative government may be fittingly conferred

upon the people of this country. The Editor is glad to notice that the Indian Association is labouring to bring about this consummation, and that its efforts are being supported by influential gentlemen in England. Reference is here made to the recent motion of Sir David Wedderburn in Parliament, and the reply of the Under-Secretary of State for India, which is regarded as being extremely disappointing. The benefits of a system of representative government are then dwelt upon.

**BHARAT MIHIR.**

3. In another article, the same paper describes at some length the cruelties which have at different periods, and by different races, been devised to punish their erring fellowmen, and gives the substance of Mr. Bright's recent speech at Birmingham in which that orator condemned the executions in Cabul.

**DACCA PRAKASH,**  
February 29th, 1880.

4. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 29th February, observes that justice Representation of India in the British Parliament demands that the people of India should have the right conferred upon them of sending representatives to the British Parliament. Since England does not think it fair to regard them in the light of slaves, and since it desires their welfare, they can claim this right. Sir David Wedderburn's proposal therefore is one which it behoves Parliament to approve of.

**NAVAVIBHAKAR,**  
March 1st, 1880.

5. The *Navavibhākar*, of the 1st March, after describing the repeated Nihilism in Russia, and the Government of India attempts of the Nihilists upon the life of the Czar, and the disorder and discontent which prevail among the Russian people, remarks that fear of Russia it was which led the Government of India to declare war against Afghanistan. Considering the internal state of Russia, however, it is not at all possible that she will ever be able to invade this country. The people of India always desire the success of the noble English Government, which they regard with sincere confidence and devotion. With a loyal people as this for its subjects, the British Government need have no apprehensions of danger. Even at the present time, when Government has by imposing certain taxes and by the adoption of certain other measures caused some heart-burning, the people are not disaffected towards British rule. They fully believe that sooner or later, owing to the labours of Mr. Gladstone, Professor Fawcett, and other philanthropic statesmen in England, a change will come. There is no fear that Nihilism will ever be able to assert its existence among the loyal people of India. It, however, behoves Government not to tax their patience sorely.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

**PRATIKAR,**  
February 20th, 1880.

6. The *Pratikār*, of the 20th February, received in this office on the 1st of March, contains an article headed the "Tours of Magistrates in the Mofussil." We



make the following extracts from it:—The noble purpose for which the duty of making tours in the cold season through the interior of the country was originally inculcated on magisterial officers is being largely frustrated owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which it is generally performed at the present time. Magistrates are now not unfrequently found to accept presents from landlords, while their amlah and peons obtain articles from the peasantry, sometimes at nominal prices, and at others without making any payment, and even by employing force. Of course, this is done without the knowledge of the superior officers, but they certainly ought to keep an eye on the matter. If instead of spending their time in hunting, the Magistrates would but reflect on the proper object of these tours, they would soon be able to ascertain their duty on such occasions. If they would, after hearing both sides, impress upon the landlords a sense of their duty to the tenantry, much of the difference now existing between the parties might be removed. Similarly, by clearly explaining to the people what they should do to increase the fertility of the soil, to prevent the recurrence of famines, and to exercise a proper control over schools and dispensaries, the Magistrates would deserve to be regarded as the real benefactors of the country. The Editor takes the occasion to protest against the action of Mr. H. Mosley, Magistrate of Moorshedabad, during his recent tour through Kandi, Jungypore, and other places, in having had new roads constructed from the funds of the Road Cess, in order that he might drive in his dog-cart. About 300 laborers were engaged for the purpose of making these roads; and to expedite the work, the men had even to labour at night by the aid of torch-light. This action of the Magistrate had not received the sanction of the Branch Road Cess Committees interested; nor were the works of a lasting character. The matter is deeply to be regretted.

PRATIKAR,  
February 20th, 1880.

7. According to the same paper, the results of the education imparted to the minors in the Court of Wards at Calcutta have not been satisfactory. This shows that Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitra, in spite of his learning and abilities, is not a good teacher of youths. The institution should be placed under the control of the Education Department, and experienced native officers, such as Baboo Bhudev Mukerji, might be consulted with advantage as to its future management. It is not desirable that the wards should study with a view to pass any examination of the Calcutta University. Their education should be conducted on an entirely different plan. Again, there are many minors, besides those who are under the control of the Court of Wards, whose education really requires to be directed by Government. Considering that the interests of large numbers of tenants depend on the training these minors receive in their youth, Government cannot well remain indifferent to the matter on the plea that they cannot well interfere with the liberty of the guardians.

SAHACHAR,  
February 23rd, 1880.

8. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 23rd February, headed "Sir Ashley Eden and his acts":—It is rarely that we write about the appointment of public officers; and this because we believe that those who are responsible for the work of administration are, in selecting men, guided only by a regard for their qualifications. We do not approve of the policy of the present Viceroy; yet we admit that, excepting cases where self-interest was predominant, the Government of India would never be guilty of partiality. Our belief was not otherwise regarding the Government of Bengal; hence it was that even when any particular appointment did not meet with our approbation, we were willing to believe that Government had sufficient reasons for making it. We had further a firm conviction that, whether it was the public or any individual that was concerned, whoever might

Sir Ashley Eden and his acts.



have occasion to memorialize Government or otherwise come in contact with it, invariably received from the rulers a generous and courteous treatment. It is therefore to be observed with regret that we have been constrained to lay aside all such notions as far as the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is concerned,—a man from whom much had been expected. So far as political rights are concerned, he has become an extreme Imperialist—witness the Vernacular Press Act and his efforts to abolish the election system in the Calcutta Municipality. Sir Ashley Eden has at length ceased to show even common courtesy—witness his Resolution on the *Pugree* question, a document which indeed contains a proper solution of the matter at issue, but is nevertheless written in such bitterly sarcastic language that we warn the public against ever again petitioning him on any subject. Sir Ashley ought to remember that it was to the assistance of the educated natives and their organs in the press, upon whom he is now in the habit of throwing so much ridicule, that he owes his fame and advancement. He has doubtless abilities, but those who have so long approved of his actions to the extent of even occasionally overlooking faults, do not certainly deserve to be kicked. Sir Ashley would further seem to have forgotten that he now occupies the seat which was occupied before him by Sir Richard Temple—a man who loved to see others happy. Although, as a provincial Governor, he, too, is in a manner bound to support the policy of Imperialism which is now in the ascendant, he has still always sought to please the public in all matters. Even when refusing a prayer, Sir Richard would appear to be using honied words. Sir Ashley Eden, however, appears to have his eyes always red with anger. Sir Richard used to honor merit, and would often honor native authors and other literary men by invitations to Belvedere. On such occasions he showed them a genuine regard; they also, while there, felt themselves quite at home. Sir Ashley Eden, on the other hand, began his administration by abusing educated natives, and newspaper editors. While Sir Richard Temple honored only merit and moral character, whoever might be the possessors thereof, the gates of Sir Ashley's palace are closed to all except the owners of landed estates, Government paper, palatial residences, and grand equipage. In his eyes poverty is a great sin. To those who have seen the smiling face and heard the sweet words of Sir Richard Temple, the Belvedere under its present lord appears but a dreary waste and dreadful place. It is, of course, needless to add that those native gentlemen who continue to receive invitations to this place (of course at the public cost) do not find there that comfort which used to cheer them in the days of Sir Richard Temple. Sir Ashley entirely differs from his predecessor in this that he finds a pleasure in disregarding public opinion. He is merely a routine Governor; and although fond of pompous displays, he has not yet been able to do anything memorable. Not to speak of other projects, in spite of grand preparations, he has not yet found it in his power to carry out the construction of a railway from Calcutta to Jessore *via* Baraset. According to him that people alone can be said to be happy who have no history. Indeed! A lunatic might as well be regarded as the happiest of mortals. Well might the public ask, if it is possible to carry on the administration of a large province by simply following the natural course of events, what is the utility of keeping up such a costly Lieutenant-Governorship? Why not revert to the old plan of the Governor-General doing the work of the Governor of Bengal? Right or wrong, the people believe that under Sir Ashley Eden favouritism reigns supreme. The appointment of Dr. Payne as Surgeon-General of Bengal; of the supersession of Mr. Wells, Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs in the matter of the acting appointment to the Presidency Commissionership; of the selection of a Junior Civilian to officiate for him, and of Mr. Lyall to fill the post of Inspector-General of Police in disregard of the just claims of other Civilians, are cited as instances in point. The



nomination of the young Maharajah of Durbhunga to the Bengal Council is, however, described as the most objectionable step which has been taken by His Honor. Beyond his wealth, the young nominee does not possess any other qualification for the exalted office for which he has been selected. Lord Lytton is, in conclusion, asked to put his veto upon this nomination.

9. The *Samálochak* does not believe that the tenantry would grow

SAMALOCHAK,  
February 27th, 1880.

The Rent Bill and the tenant right in Bengal.

more extravagant in their habits if the right of transferring the right, of occupancy by sale or otherwise were conferred upon them. The result, in his opinion, would be quite the reverse, as they would more likely, in consequence of possessing an abiding interest in the soil, become more frugal in their habits. The objections raised by Sir Richard Garth in his note on this subject therefore fall to the ground. If the rights now proposed to be conferred upon them were withheld on the strength of such arguments as that the facility of transfer would lead them to mortgage their holdings, the same reasons might be advanced against every proposal to raise the status of the tenantry by the grant of some new right which they did not possess before. Sir Richard seems to have accepted as axioms two suppositions—namely (1) that the Bengal tenantry are extravagant in their expenditure, and (2) that a habit of extravagance has become such a second nature with them that they will never be able to get rid of it.

The Editor agrees with Sir Richard Garth, and thus differs from Mr. Field, on the question of the sale by auction of the rights of a tenant in satisfaction of the debt incurred by him; and is of opinion that the latter should have a perfect freedom of contract. He is further convinced that, if the Bill proposed by the Rent Commission be passed into law, the ryots will have in a great measure restored to them the rights which they originally possessed.

10. The present administration, observes the *Sulabha Samáchár*, of

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
February 28th, 1880.

The policy of the present administration.

the 28th February, is becoming increasingly unpopular. In every direction the rulers are gradually closing the paths of advancement, and acting just as they please, without any regard to the consequences of their actions on the well-being of the people. The other day, at the Trades' Dinner, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal gave a very amusing reason for his belief that the work of administration is going on smoothly, and this reason was that last year there was not much public agitation made respecting any governmental measures. Did not the complaints and the mighty agitations made by the people reach the ears of Government? If their opinions on the remission of the cotton duties, more particularly the protests of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in this connection, the discussions regarding the whole Afghan policy of the Government, regarding the Arms Act and the License Tax, and the complaints noticed in the newspapers, are not to be regarded as public agitations, it is difficult to see what will. Many again do not complain from a conviction that complaints do not produce any good. It is not therefore safe to argue that because there have been no complaints therefore the administration has done its duty by the people. The fact is that Government has gradually ceased to be looked upon as well-wishers of India, and has come to be regarded as a tyrannical administration. There now seems to be more a desire to coax the people by means of devices than to do them good by the adoption of well-considered and generously conceived plans.

11. The *Sádháraní* does not see how, in view of the circumstances which

SADHARANI,  
February 29th, 1880.

Budget Estimates for 1880-81.

have led to the present state of the finances, Sir John Strachey is justified in regarding the surplus with a feeling of gratification. In spite of the loan granted by



the English Exchequer, loans from Native Princes, and the savings effected by means of reductions of expenditure, the surplus which has really accrued is but small, and does not afford any reasonable grounds for exultation. The fact is there has not been any great improvement in the finances of the State beyond what has taken place in the Opium and Salt revenues. The Government and the Finance Minister therefore have obtained a little breathing time, and have been enabled to so tinker the finances as may lead to the postponement of the inevitable difficulty to another year.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
March 1st, 1880.

12. The following observations are extracted from an article in the *Navavibhakar* of the 1st March:—The apprehensions of a large deficit which were expressed by Sir John Strachey when presenting the financial statement for 1879-80 led to an outcry from all sides for a reduction of expenditure. Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey bowed to the force of this public opinion, and made great retrenchments in all departments of the Administration. They went further and devised new taxes for increasing the income of the State. Three months have not yet passed since the Finance Minister proposed to impose a tax on incomes, and his proposal would have been by this time probably carried out had it not been for the opposition of the salaried European officers. It was widely believed that unless an economical management of the resources of the State was carried on for at least three years, there could be no improvement of the financial position. Those, however, who entertained such apprehensions will doubtless be agreeably surprised to learn that there will be a surplus in the hands of the Government at the end of the present financial year. This is a forcible comment on the fitness of Sir John Strachey for his present office.

Government has congratulated itself on thus securing a large surplus after meeting the charges on account of the Afghan War, Frontier Railways, and Famine Works. If the financial position of the Government of India were really so prosperous, the matter would indeed be one for congratulation. It is, however, to be regretted that there is nothing certain about the words of the Finance Minister. He manipulates the accounts according to his needs, and makes out the existence of deficits or surpluses according as it is his interest to do so. When funds were required for the Afghan War, he shewed there was a deficit, and put forth efforts to reduce expenditure and augment income. Now that it is necessary to defend the Ministry from the attacks of the Opposition on the score of bad financial administration of India, and secure them against unpleasant consequences when the next election takes place, Sir John has made out an unprecedented improvement of the resources of the State. There is, however, little likelihood that the improvement expected will really take place. The expenses of the Afghan War will doubtless exceed the estimated cost, and may bring about a deficit. Sir John Strachey himself is not wholly free from some such fear, and hopes in the event of this contingency to have recourse to loans. This attitude of doubtfulness on his part has been perhaps intentional, and will probably be availed of, if occasion ever arises afterwards, for borrowing for public purposes. The Editor is glad that incomes below Rs. 500 a year have been exempted from liability to pay the License Tax, while he is doubtful of the propriety of abandoning the Bill for taxing the salaried incomes. The abolition of the export duty on all other Indian articles, except rice, may indeed stimulate the commerce of this country, more especially as regards indigo; but the measure does not appear to have been disinterested. It seems to be the prelude to the complete repeal of the cotton duties.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

13. The same paper remarks that, in view of the marked improvement which has taken place in the finances of Government, it is necessary that either the

The License Tax.



License Tax should be repealed or an Income Tax imposed. It is not proper that persons enjoying small incomes should be taxed, while those drawing high salaries should be exempted. Sir John Strachey himself perceived this, as was shewn when he proposed the introduction of an income tax. It is not therefore clear what has led him to change his opinions so soon. The public, however, regard his action as being dictated by a desire not to offend the Europeans. If a direct tax is really necessary, both traders and officers should be taxed; and there would not be much objection if the minimum limits were fixed at higher figures.

14. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the notices issued to the proprietors of rent-free lands to have them registered before the 31st January of this year were neither duly served upon the parties interested, nor stuck up in any conspicuous place. The consequence was that the parties did not come to know of their existence before the 20th of January. A few days only now remained for fulfilling the requirements of the law. This has occasioned extreme inconvenience and hardship.

Registration of rent-free lands.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
March 1st, 1880.

#### EDUCATION.

15. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 23rd February, approves of the recent action of Mr. Croft in connection with the Calcutta School Book Society. No exception can properly be taken to the discontinuance of the monthly grant of Rs. 500 to this institution, the circumstances having so completely changed under which the grant was originally made. School books are now being written by independent native authors, and their circulation in the mofussil has been facilitated by the introduction of railways and the establishment of agencies in different parts of the country. The price of books has thus been to a great extent equalized. In this connection the Editor asks Government to resuscitate the old *Rahasya Sandarbha*, the illustrated magazine which, under the patronage of the Calcutta School Book Society, used to be published by Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitra, and diffused entertaining and useful instruction among the people. Nothing like it exists at the present time.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
February 23rd, 1880.

16. While approving of the discontinuance of the Government grant to the Calcutta School Book Society, the *Education Gazette*, of the 27th February, considers that the Director of Public Instruction would have done better if, instead of Mr. Brown, he had appointed a competent Bengali on a reduced pay to the office of Secretary to the institution. The appointment of this gentleman cannot but result in the closing of the Society.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
February 27th, 1880.

17. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 29th February, adverts to the remarkable success which has attended the labours of the Dacca Madrasa in the cause of education. It is now keeping up a close competition with the sister institution at Calcutta. But to make it completely successful, two points require to be attended to—first, the necessity, as far as the English Department is concerned, of teaching up to the Entrance standard of the University; and secondly, of teaching Bengali to the pupils. The abilities of the Superintendent are then referred to and the authorities asked to raise his pay.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
February 29th, 1880.

#### LOCAL.

18. A correspondent of the *Navavibhākar* asks the Lieutenant-Governor to issue instructions to the local authorities for the destruction of the monkeys which abound in the northern suburbs of Calcutta. They have become a great nuisance, and constantly annoy and injure the inhabitants.

Monkeys in Barahanagar.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
March 1st, 1880.



EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
February 27th, 1880.

19. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 27th February, asks Government to order the clearance of the dense jungle which exists in thana Thakurgong

Tigers in Dinagepore.

which is the seat of a Munsiff, and in villages Prannugger and Gobind-nugger, all in the district of Dinagepore. These places are infested with tigers, which kill a large number of men and cattle. The adjacent villages are gradually becoming deserted in consequence.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
February 27th, 1880.

20. The *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the same date, after referring to the injury done to the rubber crops in the Murshedabad district by the late rains, directs the attention of Government to the necessity of repairing those breaches in the embankments of the Pudma and Bhagiruthee rivers, in consequence of which there were destructive inundations in this district last year. The present is the proper season for commencing this work.

Floods and embankments in Murshedabad.

SADHARANI,  
February 29th, 1880.

21. The *Sádháraní*, of the 29th February, refers to the hardship caused to the pilgrims who visited the shrine of Boidyanath on the occasion of the last Basanta Panchami, owing to the refusal of the *Pandas* to accommodate them in their lodging-houses. It was a rainy day, and the suffering of the assembled pilgrims was intense. The *Pandas*, however, were not to blame for this state of things. The extension of the Pooree Lodging-house Act to the municipality of Deoghur had made it necessary for them to take out licenses for the lodging-houses; and this they had not done, because the gathering of pilgrims taking place only three times a year, there was no necessity of taking out a license for the whole year; and also because, if the requirements of the law were to be fulfilled, no more than 150 persons could be admitted into these houses, while the number seeking admission was from two to three thousand. Thus it happened that, while Government was not a gainer by even a pice from this measure, the pilgrims were subjected to great hardship. It is said that some five or six persons have died from the consequences of the exposure. The belief is very prevalent. The writer, however, who was at Deoghur at the time, did not find any proof of this. In conclusion, it is hoped that Government will see its way to withdrawing the place from the operation of the Pooree Lodging-house Act before the Sivaratri festival takes place.

The extension of the Pooree Lodging-house Act to Deoghur.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 6th March 1880.